

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
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E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: CASC, CSCE, PFOR, UR

SUBJECT: AMCITS REFUSED ADMISSION TO USSR

REF: (A) MOSCOW 19732 NOTAL; (B) MOSCOW 19949 (C) PARIS
37822 (D) MOSCOW 20069 NOTAL

1. DEC 29 EUR/SOV RAISED WITH SOVIET EMBASSY COUNSELOR FOR CONSULAR AFFAIRS KAVALEROV TWO RECENT INCIDENTS IN WHICH TOTAL OF SEVEN US CITIZENS WERE REFUSED ADMITTANCE TO USSR AT SHEREMETEVO AIRPORT.
 2. DEPTOFF PROTESTED SOVIET AUTHORITIES' REFUSAL TO PERMIT THE FIVE DETAINED 24 HOURS DEC 20-21 (REFS B AND C) TO PHONE AMEMBASSY. HE NOTED THAT AS MATTER OF PRINCIPLE DEPARTMENT
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MAINTAINS THAT AMERICANS IN SUCH CIRCUMSTANCES SHOULD BE ALLOWED TO PHONE EMBASSY IN ACCORDANCE WITH CONSULAR CONVENTION.

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3. DEPTOFF SAID DEPARTMENT UNDERSTOOD THE TRAVELLERS WERE REFUSED ADMISSION BECAUSE OF MATERIAL IN THEIR POSSESSION

WHICH SOVIET CUSTOMS AUTHORITIES CONSIDERED OBJECTIONABLE, BUT DEPARTMENT WOULD LIKE TO KNOW SPECIFICALLY WHAT IS CONSIDERED SO OBJECTIONABLE AS TO WARRANT DENIAL OF ENTRY. WE WERE AWARE OF CASES IN WHICH MATERIALS WERE CONFISCATED BUT TOURISTS ALLOWED TO PROCEED ON THEIR VISIT.

4. KAVALEROV ASKED WHETHER DEPARTMENT RELATED INCIDENTS TO MOSCOW JEWISH CULTURAL SYMPOSIUM (REF D), AND DEPTOFF SAID WE ASSUMED THAT SOVIET CUSTOMS AUTHORITIES WERE PARTICULARLY STRICT BECAUSE OF SYMPOSIUM. DEPTOFF NOTED THAT IN ANY CASE PRINCIPLE OF PERMITTING AMCITS TO CONTACT EMBASSY WAS THE SAME.

5. AT APPROPRIATE OPPORTUNITY EMBASSY SHOULD FOLLOW UP BY RAISING INCIDENTS WITH MFA, STRESSING OUR POSITION THAT AMERICANS IN IMMIGRATION DETENTION SHOULD BE ALLOWED TO PHONE EMBASSY, AND THAT SOVIET AUTHORITIES SHOULD FACILITATE THEIR MAKING PHONE CALL.

ROBINSON

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